

Serial No.: 09/508,094
Atty. Docket No.: P65124US0

REMARKS

Applicant's have received the Notice of Allowability and appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowance.

In Applicant's previous Amendment filed January 9, 2004, Applicants amended claims 1 and 8 to correct the indefiniteness of "significant quantities" of nitrogen to specify that the liquid effluent being treated has a nitrogen level of "at least 500 ppm". In support of such amendments, Applicant filed the publicly available reference document, Manure Management (C.H. Burton, ed., 1997), pp. 26-27 and 120-121, which sets forth that animal manure has a known composition which carries with it an understanding to persons of ordinary skill in the art of the meaning of the phrase "significant quantity of nitrogen" with reference thereto.

In amending claims 1 and 8 in the Amendment of January 9, 2004, to specify that the nitrogen level of the liquid effluent is "at least 500 ppm", Applicant correspondingly amended the preambles of such claims to refer to "animal manure", rather than to pig slurry specifically. This amendment reflected the fact that, as evidenced by the Manure Management reference, the level of high-nitrogen-content in slurries which are successfully treated by the present invention, i.e., nitrogen levels of at

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least 500 ppm, may be obtained from animal manure of various sources, and not just that from pigs (see Table 4.1 showing that animal manure contains typically between 0.9 kg/m³, i.e., roughly 900 ppm, and 10 kg/m³, depending upon the animal at issue). However, in the January 9, 2004, Amendment, the subsequent references in claims 1 and 8 to "pig slurry" were not amended to read "animal manure" even though the significant nitrogen levels specified are not limited to the manure of pigs.

Accordingly, Applicants request entry of the amendments to claims 1 and 8 set forth herein, specifying "animal manure" not just in the preambles but throughout such claims. Again, in that the liquid effluent of animal manure to be treated by the present invention has been specified to have a nitrogen level of at least 500 ppm, such effluent may, quite reasonably, be obtained from a wider donor base than that of simply swine without affecting the structure and function of the present invention.

Claims 14-17 have also been amended to retain the original scope thereof in view of the corresponding pig slurry embodiments in the specification to which the claims are directed.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that any outstanding matters may be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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